



ConWatch

The Garden Club of America • Summer 2017

“Efforts to shrink or eliminate existing national monuments have begun.”

—Suzanne Booker-Canfield Ph.D.

Toroweap Overlook is a viewpoint within the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

From the Editor

Molly Jones

Profiles of GCA Annual Conservation Medalists

Kris Tompkins - Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

Gilbert M. Grosvenor - The Frances K. Hutchinson Medal

Wendy Judge Paulson - The Margaret Douglas Medal

The Trustees of Reservations - The Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor

NAL Issues to Watch

Legislation highlights

From the Editor

By Molly Jones

This issue celebrates the accomplishments of the recipients of the 2017 Conservation Medalists awarded at the GCA Annual meeting this spring. Read their stories and be inspired!

Many thanks to **Missy Jensen** and **Linda Fraser**, outgoing chairmen of the Conservation and NAL Committees for the last two years who provided great leadership and a sense of focus through two initiatives, PARK it! and Step UP. PARK it! celebrated the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 and encouraged GCA members to visit the parks which they did in large numbers. Over a thousand members participated by sharing their experiences and photos on the GCA website. Last year's initiative brought Step UP!, which emphasized practical ways in which members can approach the challenges of conservation and climate change.



Missy Jensen and Linda Fraser

Sasa Panarese, incoming Chairman of the Conservation Committee is a passionate advocate for conservation, and brings deep experience having served on the Executive Committee and as Chairman of several GCA committees, forging connections to other GCA members over many years.



Hollidae Morrison, incoming Chairman of the NAL Committee is known for her serious work on substantial conservation issues balanced by her fierce sense of humor.

A Message from Sasa and Hollidae

As we begin our term as chairmen of the Conservation and NAL Committees we ask you, as a member of a GCA club, to take stock of your specific and vital role in protecting our planet. Over the next two years we will assess the GCA's measurable impact towards the betterment of the environment. Coming this Fall, expect specific actionable ideas tailored to meet the appetites of our 200 clubs. Learn what you can do as an individual, a club or in tandem with another group to address an area in need. Our voices, when linked by our common goals are a powerful force for the environment. ■



Molly Jones, Editor of ConWatch, The Portland Garden Club, Zone XII

Sasa Panarese, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, Milton Garden Club, Zone I

Hollidae Morrison, Chairman of the NAL Committee, The Garden Club of Jackson, Zone IX



Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

By Corbin Harwood

Kris Tompkins lost her husband in 2015 in a kayaking accident. In the aftermath of tragedy, Kris displayed characteristic resilience and generosity, as she had throughout the 22 years she and her late husband Doug worked together to preserve nature’s masterpieces in Patagonia, a region straddling Chile and Argentina in the “ southern cone” of South America.

“I will keep going with the work Doug and I started and even accelerate it,” promised Kris Tompkins, head of **Tompkins Conservation**.

Thanks to their personal resources, business acumen, passion for beauty, and belief that human and non-human societies can live in balance with each other, the Tompkinses have supported the creation of many national and provincial parks that encompass Patagonia’s mountains, forests, steppe grasslands, wetlands and beaches. They are responsible for the largest land donation in history from a private entity to a country. It is a remarkable accomplishment that continues to astonish, even though it is not complete. Kris



is emphatic: *“When will I feel I’ve done enough? When I die. It’s only then I’ll be able to say I’ve done everything I could.”*

Kris is no stranger to challenges and risks. At age 17 she began working at the outdoor clothing store Patagonia, Inc., eventually becoming its CEO, a position she held for 13 years. It was there that she learned valuable business and management lessons. In conjunction with Patagonia’s owner and founder Yvon Chouinard, she created a new model for how a successful business might integrate commercial and social goals around sustainability. Under Kris’s leadership, the company not only funded nonprofit environmental groups and adopted environmentally friendly production processes (even when it meant that some of its clothing lines had to be halted while organic cotton was sourced), but also quadrupled its annual revenue.



Along the Carretera Austral Southern Highway

In 1993, Kris set off on a different path. She traded her position as CEO of Patagonia, Inc. for a life in the Patagonia region of South America. She arrived in the southern hemisphere speaking little Spanish and bringing a one-line resume—*“I’d only had one job in my whole life.”* There, she joined her new husband Doug Tompkins in an audacious, hands-on attempt to save wild nature from the extinction crisis.

Doug, who previously owned The North Face and Esprit, had sold his interest in those companies and started conservation work in Patagonia in 1990. He

had started buying land and upon Kris’s arrival, worked with her until his death in 2015 to advance their vision of the restoration of biodiversity and the co-existence of nature and human enterprise through large-scale land acquisition and protection. The Tompkinses and their partners have protected over 3 million acres of land in Chile and Argentina, and have donated over \$345 million of personal funds to the effort. Kris personally donated 165,000 acres to create Monté Leon National Park in Argentina. As the vision of Tompkins Conservation grew over the years, so did the necessity of outreach and major fundraising, chores that were entrusted to Kris.



Vista along the Carretera Austral Southern Highway

Doug's death did not slow down Kris's resolve to carry out their vision. In September 2016 Kris negotiated with the president of Argentina to donate 341,000 acres of land there that will become Iberá National Park. In March 2017 she announced the donation of 1 million acres of land to the Chilean government and in exchange, the Chilean President Michelle Bachelet promised to merge the gifted land with another 9 million acres of Chilean national lands to create 10 million acres of new national parks. These donations will create five new national parks and expand three existing national parks. It is the largest private donation ever of land to a government. The total area to be protected is three times the size of Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks combined and is predicted to significantly boost southern Chile's ecotourism industry. All eight parks are located along the 1,500 mile Carretera Austral Southern Highway, which has been rebranded as the "Route of Parks," and will connect 17 national parks from Puerto Montt to Cape Horn.

The process of acquiring and donating protected land back to their countries of origin had a rocky start. As Kris observed, *"...there's this inherent conflict between*

conservation and development. New ideas or efforts always face public scrutiny." Their first large purchase, located in the narrowest part of Chile, prompted a firestorm. Kris and Doug were accused of trying to divide the country in half, planning to create a nuclear dumping ground for the US, and of being neo-colonialists. They were scorned for changing the traditional cowboy culture of cattle and sheep ranching (some thought they intended to replace cows with American bison). But Kris's social and communication skills combined with the fact that she and Doug actually did what they promised—protect, restore, and return the lands to the governments, eventually won over the populace and their leaders who today embrace their work.

Central to Kris's mission is ensuring public access to the lands Tompkins Conservation has protected. *"You are missing 85% of the value of conservation if you ...don't let people in,"* Kris believes. As a result, citizens not only of Chile and Argentina, but throughout the world, can enjoy the breathtaking natural environment of Patagonia, some of which looks the same today as it did when Darwin arrived.

Large-scale landscape conservation in Patagonia allows wild animals to roam and native plants to thrive. To this end Tompkins Conservation has worked to restore overgrazed grasslands, preserve the last stands of Alerce trees (the southern cousin of the giant sequoia), protect wetlands, create wildlife corridors, reintroduce extirpated species such as the giant anteater and jaguar, develop sustainable agriculture, and promote eco-tourism for the economic benefit of local communities. The idea that well-managed agricultural areas can serve as biophysical buffers that support ecological integrity of adjacent wildlands also is key to the Tompkins's mission. Additionally, these vast acquisitions and public/private partnerships will allow scientists to study natural efficiencies of ecosystems that have evolved over millions of years. A college course would call it Learning from Nature 101!

Fierce, politically savvy, legally savvy, people savvy, Kris is a force of nature. Kim Elliman, CEO of the Open Space Institute, credits her with launching to world-class scale *"a great concept that integrates social, economic, and ecological goals."* Environmentalists hope her model will be replicated worldwide.

Kris is acutely aware that she is working against the clock. In her words, *"Flourishing human communities...can only exist if Earth's living systems are whole and healthy... People need to look in the mirror and make sure that they can say to themselves that they're trying to protect those things that they love... You can't expect that someone else is going to do it. So if you're sitting on the sidelines today, you're just making the problem worse."*

Chris accepted the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal by video on May 6th. She applauded the longstanding conservation work done by GCA and issued an invitation: *"I hope at some point that I may meet many of you, preferably down here when you are visiting one of our parks..."* Let's take her up on it!

Corbin Harwood

Garden Club of Chevy Chase, Zone VI

The Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

The Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal is awarded for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life. Designed by sculptor Charles Parks, the medal was endowed in 1979 by Mrs. William K. Laughlin of the Southampton Garden Club, New York.

Distinguished Previous recipients include

- Former Nature conservancy President Patrick Noonan (1984)
- The Outdoor Circle of Hawaii (1985),
- Writer/philosopher/farmer Wendell Berry (2008)
- The United State Green Building Council (2009)





Gilbert M. Grosvenor



Flooding in the Netherlands in 1953

Frances K. Hutchinson Medal

By Lynne Mitchell

Gilbert M. Grosvenor When one thinks of conservation, especially on a national and international scale, the National Geographic Magazine springs forward as the premier vehicle that has for decades consistently delivered thoughtful articles, dazzling photographs and fascinating information from all corners of the globe revealing how our planet and its peoples are intertwined while reminding thoughtful citizens of the need to conserve our unique world.

This year's recipient of the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal for Conservation, Gilbert M. Grosvenor, is the embodiment of the National Geographic Society. His and the Society's names are synonymous. Beginning in 1954 when he first joined the National Geographic Magazine as a photo editor, through his tenure as editor of the Magazine (1970–1980), then as President and later Chairman of the Board of

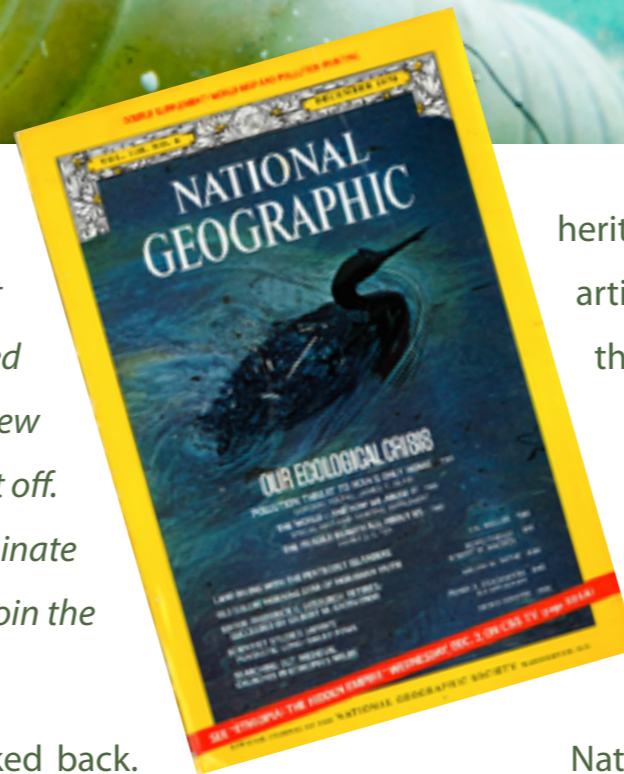
the National Geographic Society from 1980 until he retired in 2009, Gil brought his passion for conservation, education and geography to a new national level.

What was the spark that led a young college graduate on such a remarkable path? J. Willard Marriott, Jr. who wrote in support of Gil, describes the journey. *"During his junior year, as he was studying for his B.A. in psychology from Yale University, he and his roommate saw an ad to join an international work camp in the Netherlands repairing dykes after the floods of 1953. It was worse than when the Dutch intentionally flooded the Netherlands to keep the Nazis out. A third of the Netherlands was underwater. However, outside of one New York Times article, hardly any news of it reached America and hardly anyone in the United States knew anything about it. His father, who led the National Geographic at the time, not only*



approved of his going but suggested that he take a camera with him and record as much of his experience as he could. Gil said later, that trip changed his life. He discovered, when the Geographic decided to publish the story, that hundreds of thousands of people now knew something they otherwise would not have known. A light bulb went off. He realized the great potential National Geographic had to disseminate knowledge about the rest of the world. That trip convinced him to join the staff of the Geographic after graduation."

From that life forming experience, Gil Grosvenor never looked back. When he became editor of the Magazine in 1970, the first cover declared, ***“Our Ecological Crisis,”*** with articles entitled Pollution, Threat to Man’s only Home, and The Fragile Beauty All About Us. These pieces represented a substantial departure from the magazine’s earlier format and heralded a more modern approach. Friend to explorers, scientists and conservationists, Gil used his platform to spotlight their accomplishments, and to focus on the challenges of protecting land, water and wildlife. His goal was to call attention to the remarkable diversity of peoples and cultures and the need to protect this



heritage. He continued the Geographic’s tradition of publishing articles offering facts rather than opinions thereby encouraging the reader to make up his own mind.

In the 1980s Gil realized the appalling lack of knowledge of geography throughout our nation when one survey showed one in five young adults couldn’t find the Pacific Ocean on a world map even though it covers over 30% of the world’s surface. Gil oversaw the creation, in 1985, of

National Geographic World, now Kids and Traveler Magazines.

Their mission is to instill a love of geography, enhance the knowledge of our earth and demonstrate to young and growing children the wonders of the world. As part of his determination to ensure geographic literacy, Gil networked with educators across the country promoting state-mandated geography studies. This multi-million-dollar endeavor bore fruit as geography is now tested regularly in the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NEAP) along with the increasingly popular Advanced Placement Exam. As evidence of the Society’s commitment, in 1988 the Board of Trustees established the National

Geographic Society's Education Program that flourishes today. Regional geographic teacher's institutes throughout the country continue to spotlight the study of geography.

When the media revolution erupted Gil embraced these challenges by growing the Society's reach to include digital media while maintaining the Society's core mission which includes conservation, education, adventure and exploration .

Friend and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Sylvia Earle wrote, *"I have continued to be impressed by Gil's keen grasp of complex issues concerning conservation of the environment, his insatiable appetite for learning, and his zeal for sharing the latest findings, all with the goal of helping humanity better understand and protect the planet."*

In a speech to Zone VI in 2005 about the efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay, Gil commented, *"It is said that history is made when a person or group of people have the wisdom or courage to stand up for what is right even when it is a difficult decision. I am delighted the GCA, which has been in the forefront of responsible conservation efforts nationwide, has joined in this important endeavor for the future of the Bay Watershed. It is worth the effort! Isn't it wonderful that we have this national treasure right in our backyards?"*



In a collaborative effort, the National Geographic, The Conservation Fund, the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** including the GCA and others, promoted establishment of the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail** as a National Park. At this year's GCA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, The John Smith National Water Trail was the focus of the enthusiastically received and award-winning Conservation Exhibit.

A member of the President's Commission on America's Outdoors, Gil received the National Medal of Freedom in 2004. He has generously served on national and international boards and has been awarded fourteen honorary doctorates. GCA is honored to recognize an outstanding conservationist, Gilbert M. Grosvenor.

Lynne Mitchell

Garden Club of Chevy Chase, Maryland, Zone VI

The Frances K. Hutchinson Medal

Awarded to figures of national importance for distinguished service to conservation. Designed in 1940 by Spaulding-Gorham Silversmiths of Chicago, the medal is presented and endowed by the Lake Geneva Garden Club in memory of its founder, Frances K. Hutchinson (Mrs. Charles L.).

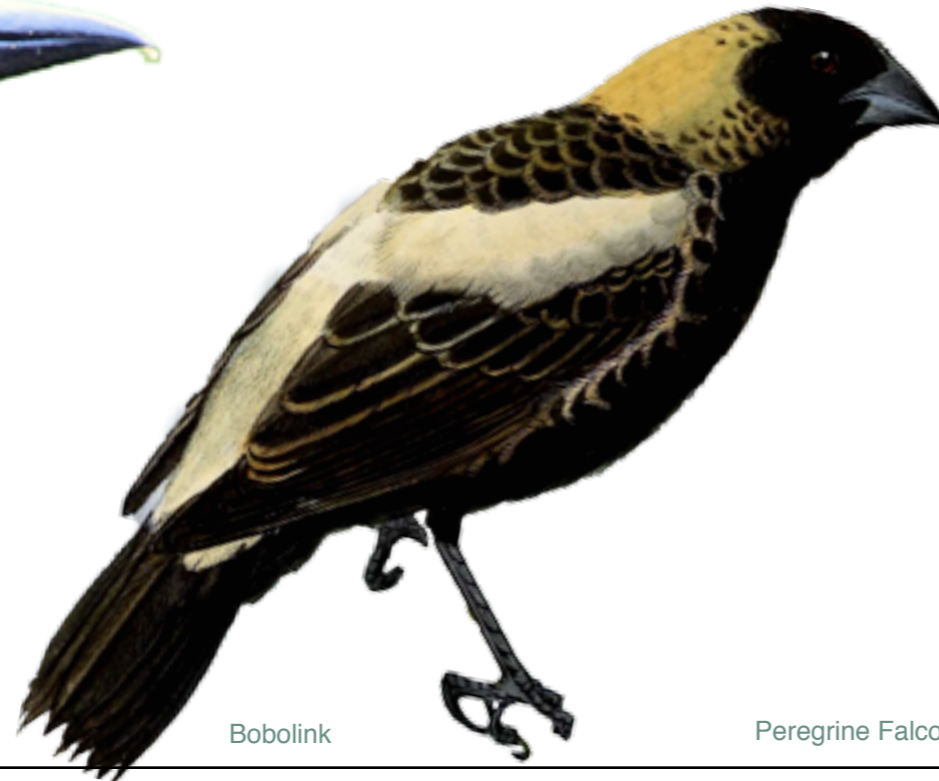
Distinguished Previous recipients include

- Rachel Carson (1951)
- Walt Disney (1954)
- former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall (1965)
- Lady Bird Johnson (1968)
- Roger Tory Peterson (1970)





Grackle



Bobolink



Peregrine Falcon

The Margaret Douglas Medal

By Hollidae Morrison

Wendy Judge Paulson, recent winner of the GCA's Margaret Douglas Medal for serving the cause of conservation education, knows the difference between the call of the bobolink and the grasshopper sparrow. A true bird lover and nature advocate, her place of heart is wherever birds are. Whether leading students in a city park searching for birds or standing in open grasslands pointing out a savannah sparrow for all to see, Paulson feels most at home with binoculars in her hands and mud on her boots.

Honoring Paulson, the GCA hailed her as a "formidable force in conservation" locally, nationally and internationally. "From teaching elementary school science to driving the preservation and restoration of native landscapes, Paulson has

devoted her life to convincing people, from heads of state to urban schoolchildren, to care deeply about nature," said the GCA in honoring Paulson. "She is a principled and tireless advocate for environmental education and the conservation of land."

After graduating from Wellesley College at the height of the DDT crises, she started her career as a teacher in Boston Public Schools. It was during this time that she went with a group who were banding peregrine falcons in Maryland to track the effects of DDT. Although her father was a bird-watcher and Paulson loved being outdoors with him from an early age, it was through this experience that she found her true calling as a passionate advocate for birds and conservation.

Teaching

She has taught bird classes in New York City and Chicago area public schools where she's sometimes known as the 'Nature Lady'. Her latest project is teaching Chicago Public Schools



Photo: Cristina Rutter
Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

students about birds through Birds in My Neighborhood, a program she established with the Chicago-based Openlands organization. Of her experiences with students in NYC's Central Park, Paulson wrote in an essay: *"With eyes newly alert to species other than the ubiquitous pigeons, sparrows, and starlings of city blocks, they marveled as iridescent grackles, just several feet away, tossed leaves in search of grubs. They stood motionless to watch ovenbirds tiptoe on the path before them and black-throated blue warblers perch on wire fences. The unpredictable and serendipitous became almost commonplace. A teacher of birds could not design a better place for kids to learn about them and for young students, the parks were a vibrant aviary."*

Paulson believes that, *"Conservation awareness and ecological literacy should be an integral part of every individual's education from the earliest years. Besides knowing their street address, youngsters should learn what watershed they live in, what ecosystem they come from. Such education will help develop citizens more aware and more appreciative of their natural heritage and better prepared to make decisions that will optimize the benefits of that heritage."*

Advocacy

Another hallmark of Paulson's life is leading volunteers and organizations to restore degraded lands to high quality natural habitat. In Illinois, Paulson has worked for decades to bring back the indigenous grasslands of the state. In addition to her hands-on involvement in seed collecting, sowing, and removing invasive species, she continues to lead bird walks to educate others about



Meadowlark

native landscapes and species and to teach in a prairie program she helped establish to immerse schoolchildren in local grasslands of the Prairie State.

"When we moved to northern Illinois, I discovered Henslow's sparrows and found that with the deterioration of the grasslands near me that Henslow's sparrows were disappearing. And I learned there were several threatened species — meadowlarks, bobolinks—that were forced to leave these places where they'd traditionally nested...we found that if you restore the grasslands, the birds will come back."

More recently, Paulson has been a leading preservationist of barrier islands off the Georgia coast, a tidal marsh ecosystem that provides habitat for thousands of migratory shorebirds and marine wildlife. Working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and The

Nature Conservancy, she helped establish Little St. Simons Island as a model for conservation management and education. In cooperation with the St. Simons Land Trust, Paulson enlisted the support of residents and business leaders and raised funds to save Cannon's Point, a 608-acre parcel of maritime forest and salt marsh on St. Simons Island slated for the development of 450 homes and a golf course. Through Paulson's spearheading efforts, Cannon's Point was purchased by the land trust and is now protected with a conservation easement which allows public access to the wilderness preserve.

Leadership

This type of teaching, advocacy, and philanthropy has been a springboard to numerous board leadership positions in conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International. Paulson is a co-founder and chairman of the Bobolink Foundation which serves to advance conservation and stewardship of biodiversity through protection of natural areas, education and building local constituencies for nature.

On a more global level, Paulson is also a board member of *Rare*, an organization that since 1979, has run more than **300 Pride campaigns** in over 50 countries, created to inspire communities to take pride in their local environment and wildlife, and rally around the protection of their natural resources.

Non ministrari, sed ministrare

"I took my college motto seriously—Non ministrari, sed ministrare—not to be served, but to serve. It strengthened a desire I had since childhood to help make the world a better place," said Paulson. This type of service, especially dedicated to the environment, is a family interest as well. Paulson's husband, Henry "Hank" Paulson, former Treasury Secretary (2006–2009), is chairman of the **Paulson Institute**, which promotes sustainable economic growth and a cleaner environment around the world as



well as **Risky Business**, a project to assess and publicize the economic risks to the the U.S. associated with climate change. Their two children and four grandchildren are all outdoor enthusiasts, with both her son and daughter keenly supportive of conservation.

"Paulson has a passion for communicating conservation to people of all ages – leading inner-city schoolchildren on bird walks in Central Park, harvesting prairie seeds with students in the Midwest as they learn about grassland restoration and sharing her knowledge of birds and their flyways with members of the community," observed the GCA. *"She has committed her life to biodiversity conservation and to inspiring and training new generations to cherish nature."* ■

The Margaret Douglas Medal

Originally presented and endowed by Priscilla Sleeper Sterling (1920-2011), Garden Club of Dublin and Monadnock Garden Club (both in New Hampshire), to honor Mrs. Walter Douglas (1890-1963), an honorary GCA member. Art Deco sculptor Rene P. Chambellan designed the medal in 1952. The Ridgefield Garden Club of Ridgefield, Connecticut nominated Paulson for this for this award, one of the highest honors bestowed by The Garden Club of America.

Previous recipients include author and environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1990), documentary filmmaker Bill Kurtis (1997) and entomologist, researcher and educator Douglas W. Tallamy (2013).



Castle Hill, Ipswich, Massachusetts

The Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal

By North Shore Garden Club of Massachusetts

The Trustees of Reservations was awarded the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal at the GCA Annual Meeting in May 2017. President and CEO Barbara Erickson accepted the award on behalf of the Trustees. Founded in 1891 by noted landscape architect Charles Eliot, the Trustees is the world's first land preservation non-profit and Massachusetts' largest conservation and preservation organization. It was a model for, and precursor to, the National Trust for Historic Preservation in both the United States and the United Kingdom and serves as a model for preservation/conservation groups throughout the world.

Visited by over a million people annually, the Trustees' 100+ properties include working farmlands, landscaped gardens, forests, miles of coastlines, community

parks, campgrounds, and historic landscapes. Six properties are National Historic Landmarks, and six properties are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Trustees' passion is to share with everyone the irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures they care for. Annually, they run 4,100 programs to inspire, educate, and connect the public to the landscape and history of sites and work with many Massachusetts GCA clubs on ongoing maintenance and preservation.

While the Trustees' restoration of the **National Landmark gardens at Naumkeag** and **Castle Hill** is part of their program to document and rejuvenate their public gardens, work is not limited to older established sites. In 2014, the Trustees became a founding partner of the Boston Public Market, the first all

locally-sourced indoor market of its kind in the nation. There they operate an Appleton Farms vendor booth and serve as the educational programming partner for the Market's demonstration kitchen.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Berkshires, the Trustees lead by example. Their conservation advocacy, ecological restorations, adoption of sustainable land use and community-supported agriculture fulfill Charles Elliot's goal to hold land free of taxes for the public to enjoy "just as a Public Library holds books and an Art Museum holds pictures."

Submitted by the North Shore Garden Club

The Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal

Awarded to non-members for exemplary service and creative vision in any field related to The Garden Club of America's special interests. It was endowed by the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Charitable Foundation in 2003.

Distinguished Previous recipients include

- Lady Bird Johnson (2006)
- The Newman Family & Newman's Own Foundation (2009)
- Dr. Wes Jackson (2012)
- John H. Bryan (2014)



Paine House, Greenwood Farm, Ipswich, Massachusetts



iceburg near Sanderson's Hope, Greenland

NAL Issues to Watch

Suzanne Booker-Canfield Ph.D.

Conservation Policies and Legislation

America's Withdrawal from International Climate Agreement

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, and on June 12, 2017, he also opted out of the G7 pledge that addressed the Paris agreement and climate change action. In what he stated was “*a reassertion of America's sovereignty*,” President Trump rejected the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change. Under President Obama, the U.S. had agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.6 billion tons by 2025 (26%–28% below the nation's 2005 level by 2025). The target was voluntary, and the U.S. and the nearly 200 other countries in the agreement could revise their commitments. In rejecting the Paris agreement, the U.S. joined Syria and Nicaragua, the only other UN members who had not signed (though Nicaragua had refused to sign on the basis that the goals needed to be more stringent). President Trump announced the possibility of reentering the agreement if the terms were more favorable for the U.S., but other nations have

said that this multilateral treaty cannot be renegotiated. Meanwhile, President Trump is working to rescind the Clean Power Plan, the Obama-era regulation that was to be a key mechanism to allow the U.S. to meet the Paris commitment.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME: Under the rules of the Paris agreement, the earliest any country can leave is November 4, 2020, almost the entirety of the President's current term.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Contact your state or municipality to encourage efforts that many governmental bodies are undertaking in absence of federal policy. Many cities and states in the U.S. are joining the international efforts to reduce climate change.
- Ask your representative to support resolutions that address the importance of being part of multilateral agreements to address global climate change.

Proposed Drastic Cuts to the U.S. EPA

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

President Trump's proposed FY18 budget calls for a 30 percent reduction in funding for the U.S. EPA and staffing cuts of 3,800. The proposed funding cut is the lowest inflation-adjusted spending level since the founding of the EPA 47 years ago. More than 50 programs would be zeroed out, including most climate change-related research. The EPA regulates harmful pollutants, keeps our air and water clean, decreases the presence of toxic chemicals, supervises the cleanup of Superfund sites, and regulates harmful emissions, including carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The elimination of many of the agency's core missions to protect air and water, as well as the removal of its climate-change mitigation responsibilities, will negatively affect the natural world and the businesses that rely on it. Moreover, these funding cuts could leave Americans vulnerable to serious health challenges as a result of air and water pollution.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME: The appropriations process is running behind schedule. The House and Senate Appropriations Committee will likely fold the 12 separate spending bills into an omnibus bill that would need to be marked up quickly in order to bring the package to the floor prior to the August recess. Government funding runs out on September 30, 2017.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Call or write your legislators asking them not to make disproportionate cuts to the agency's budget because a fully functioning EPA is vital to the environment and human health. Americans rely on the EPA to protect the land, water, and air from harmful pollution.



Cliff Dwelling, Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

Threats to America's National Monuments

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order instructing the Department of the Interior to review national monuments (which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and other agencies) designated under the **Antiquities Act**. The order targets national monuments using three criteria: (1) those areas made monuments after 1996; (2) monuments that are larger than 100,000 acres in size, or (3) those monuments that Interior Secretary Zinke determines were designated as national monuments without adequate public outreach or support. The Antiquities Act is a vital conservation tool that allows presidents to set these federal lands aside for the American people. Any attempts to weaken an environmental law that has been working effectively since Congress established it in 1906 raises serious concerns. The Antiquities Act has been used by Republican and Democrats alike to safeguard iconic sites throughout the country for more than a century. No president has attempted to revoke a predecessor's monument designation, so this is new territory. The efforts to shrink or eliminate existing national monuments have begun. On June 12, Secretary Zinke announced that he would recommend the

reduction of **Bears Ears National Monument**, located in southeast Utah. Secretary Zinke also stated that President Trump should use the “*appropriate authority*” to redraw the monument's boundaries.

ESTIMATED TIME FRAME: The final reports on Bears Ears and 26 other national monuments are due in late August, so any public input should come as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you want to see America's national monuments preserved, you can . . .

- Call or write Interior Secretary Zinke, asking him to protect our public lands and not to reverse any national monuments.

National monuments are public assets that are important to our ecosystems, our economy, and our American identity; therefore, it is vital to protect these treasured lands so that future generations of Americans can enjoy them the way we do today.



Trout

Proposed 80% Cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), with broad, bipartisan support, is slated for a drastic spending cut. President Trump's proposed budget cuts for conservation at America's National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges and other public lands would be gutted up to 89%. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat and other community conservation priorities would also be decimated. Working forest protection—which opens up public access and protects drinking water supplies while still keeping jobs in the woods—is likely zeroed out altogether. Since it was created in 1965, the LWCF has served as the primary funding source for federal land acquisitions for conservation and recreation. LWCF helps fund the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Forest Service. The program is authorized for \$900 million annually from royalties paid by oil and gas companies for offshore drilling; when companies deplete one natural resource, they dedicate a small portion of their revenues to fund the acquisition of another natural resource. In addition to the challenge of spending cuts to LWCF, the program is set to expire in September 2018 unless Congress reauthorizes it.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME: Although standalone measures would be much less likely to see floor time, LWCF measures may once again be included in larger bills, such as the omnibus appropriations bill or a future energy bill.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Call or write representatives asking them to cosponsor **H.R. 502**, which would permanently reauthorize LWCF, and the "Land and National Park Deferred Maintenance Act" (bill not yet numbered), which would provide \$450 million in funding for the program.
- Ask for a minimum of \$450 million in FY2018 appropriations from both House and Senate.
- Call or write senators asking them to Cosponsor **S. 896**, which would permanently reauthorize LWCF, and **S. 569**, which would permanently reauthorize LWCF and provide permanent funding at the fully authorized level of \$900 million a year.

Suzanne-Booker Canfield, Ph.D., Garden Guild of Winnetka, Zone XI; Vice Chairmen, Legislative Update, 2015–2017